

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, the above-indicated claim amendments have been made.

Claims 1-29 were pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 10 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 9, 17, 19 and 28 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 3-9, 11-20 and 22-29 are pending, with claims 1, 9, and 19 being independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Meulenbrugge. However, the Office Action notes that claims 2, 10, and 21 contain allowable subject matter. Although Applicant disagrees with the rejection over Meulenbrugge, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 10, and 21 and incorporated that subject matter into claims 1, 9, and 19, respectively.

Applicants note with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 2, 4, 10, 18, 21 and 29 if re-written in independent form.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate all the limitations of claim 2, which previously depended from claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant has also amended claim 9 to incorporate all the limitations of claim 10, which previously depended from claim 9. Claim 9 is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-18 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicant notes that claim 17 has been amended to provide consistency with amended claim 9.

Applicant has also amended claim 19 to incorporate all the limitations of claim 21, which previously depended from claim 19. Claim 19 is therefore in condition for allowance.

Claims 20 and 22-29 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicant notes that claim 28 has been amended to provide consistency with amended claim 19.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal R. Butler, Applicant

By: 

James H. Morris, Reg. No. 34,681
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2211
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

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